



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PARENT BULLETIN No. 36 17th December, 2021

Welcome

There are several worrying stories in the press about the spread of the new variant leading to school closures in January. This is indeed concerning, but I can confirm that nothing has been shared with schools to this effect from either the Department for Education or Public Health England. I sincerely hope this remains the case. Children need to be in school.

I know that Christmas will be hard for some families with the rise in infections and I hope that you are all able to see loved ones where you can. Autumn term is the longest in the school calendar and students are tired. I hope that our students come back rested and ready to learn once again. Please read the information below carefully regarding a staggered start to allow for Lateral Flow Testing in January. Our on-site testing is a huge operation and we can process 240 students in an hour and a half. We have tried to ensure that students do not miss any days of school despite the need for testing on their return.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this bulletin or anything else, please contact using the following email: enquiries@theacademy.me or by emailing one of the specific year teams using their direct email below. This is always the most efficient way to get through.

Have a restful break.

Gavin Gibson
Academy Principal

Virtual Winter Concert

Aylesbury Vale Academy have put together a number of Christmas songs and recordings to share with you that have been performed by students from the Primary and Secondary phase. Please use the link below to access the recording

<https://www.theacademy.me/xmas2021>

The students worked hard to put this together to share with you and hope that you enjoy it. Thank you to all the staff and students who helped with the recordings and the 6th form media students who edited it all together.

Mr Hallam, Curriculum Leader Performing Arts



Lateral Flow Testing Schedule January 2022

Please can I ask parents and carers to encourage their children to test themselves twice per week over the Christmas break and **test before they return on 4th or the 5th January**. Students will be tested as they enter the building on one of these two days. We will contact parents immediately if their child tests positive. Please see below for the dates and times of your child's lateral flow test:

TUESDAY, 04 JANUARY (Staff Inset Day)

Year 7 and 8 students are asked to come into school at the following times for their Lateral Flow Test and then return home. Students are not required to wear school uniform:

- 1100 to 1200 – Year 7
- 1300 to 1400 – Year 8

WEDNESDAY, 05 JANUARY

The remainder of the year groups are asked to come into school at the following times. After their test, they will go straight to lessons. **This is the first day of school for all students.**

- 0830 to 0945 – Year 11 and 6th Form
- 0945 to 1100 – Year 10
- 1130 to 1230 – Year 9

AVA Sixth Form Admissions September 2022



If you are interested in finding out more about our sixth form, please contact us: avasixthform@theacademy.me

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter **#avasixthform**



PSHE Topics Next Term

During the next half term students will be covering the below topics in Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Year 7: Rights and responsibilities when living in a diverse society

Year 8: Tolerance - focusing on body image and gender identity

Year 9: We have changed the order of lessons slightly to accommodate a talk being delivered by police officers on the topic of drug awareness in January.

Year 10: Tolerance and inclusion

Year 11: Break-ups and harassment (including explaining the dangers of sharing indecent images)



If you have any questions about any of the following topics, please contact me on moloughlin@theacademy.me.

History Heroes

This week's History Hero is **Megan Leech**, 11 Faraday 1. Her commitment to staying at school beyond 3pm every Friday to study further, is commendable and shows true aspiration.

History Team



Year 7



As this year draws to a close, we would like to celebrate what a positive start our Year 7s have made with us and how well they have all settled into Secondary given the very challenging Year 5 and 6 that they had. We have very much enjoyed working with them and you their respective families, getting to know them as they embark on this chapter of their lives.

Year 7 have had so many things to celebrate from a successful summer school through transition and taking part in a wider curriculum. Year 7 have fully entered the spirit of the Academy by getting involved, whether it be by entering (and winning) whole school Tutor Group competitions, joining after school clubs, or playing for one of our many sporting teams after school. Year 7 have supported the Academy community by attending our Film Shows to support older pupils raise funds to visit Nepal and buying sweets to promote and support the Anti-bullying Alliance and our Bullying Ambassadors.

We now have Ambassadors and Academy Council members within both the year group and subject areas, as we move forward into next term these roles will become more developed and students in year 7 will have the opportunity to both "say" how they would like to Academy to develop and undertake responsibilities to build on their interpersonal and communication skills.

Year 7 experienced a year group trip to Gulliver's Land during summer school and more recently an awards trip to Cinderella at Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury. We very much hope to offer another rewards trip at Easter to Legoland. At the time of writing, I am very pleased to report that 19% of students in Year 7 have received their Bronze Award signifying that they have received over 250 Achievement points, which is phenomenal and an absolute credit to them.

We would like to thank all our parents and carers for their support over the past term, it is very much appreciated and makes such a difference. We are honoured to be entrusted with your children and look forward to continuing our work with them and yourselves in the New Year.

We wish you all a very restful holiday period.

Any enquiries, please contact year7enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Dutson and the Year 7 Team

Year 8



It has been an incredibly busy term for Year 8. There were a huge number of rewards given out to students who were demonstrating our values of respect, aspiration and resilience, which is great. Some of the highlights were the number of Year 8s who signed up to be Mental Health Ambassadors and Anti Bullying Ambassadors which not only shows great leadership but also how willing young people are to address some of the concerns in our society.

The trip to see Cinderella was a huge success and we hope to see all those who didn't go, qualify for the next rewards trip or activity in Spring. It was so encouraging to see 208 students receive certificates and well done to Nobel 1 for winning Tutor Group of the Term and Franklin 2 for winning 'Most Improved Tutor Group of the Term'.

Year 8 PGL Residential Trip

A group of Year 8 students attended a residential at PGL Liddington, Friday 10th-Sunday 12th December. Resilience was shown by all this weekend, not only during the activities but also whilst battling against the weather conditions we experienced. Some personal challenges were also achieved, from conquering fear of heights, to trying a variety of new and exciting activities such as climbing courses, orienteering, archery, and building shelters and fires in the rain!. Well done to everyone involved, a fab weekend enjoyed by all.



I hope all Year 8s have a truly restful break and come back refreshed in January.

Any enquiries, please contact year8enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Lloyd and the Year 8 Team

Year 9

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Year 9 students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



This term has seen our Year 9s make a positive start to their GCSEs.

We have taken 84 students for our Year 9 reward trip to Rogue Bowling in Aylesbury, students were selected on high achievement points, very few behaviour points and good attendance. We will be running another reward trip in the Spring.

Around half the year group have now received their bronze certificates for 250 achievement points. 13 students have received their Silver certificates for 500 achievement points and 7 students have received the gold certificate for 750 Achievement points. Also a special mention to Sophia D who is the first student to 1000 achievement points and has received the Principal certificate.

In our Christmas celebration assembly, the following were awarded:

- 2 Achievement Director Award – Sophia D and Theodore H
- 9 Form tutor Awards – Dayaan K, Jake F, Katie S, Angel A, Lara B, Sheza R, Shannon H, Theodore H, Subhan K,
- 27 Respect, Aspiration, Resilience Form Tutor Awards

The following awards were nominated by class teachers.

- 35 Respect Awards
- 46 Aspiration Awards
- 38 Resilience Awards

All students nominated received certificates, achievement points and rewards.

Well Done!

Any enquiries, please contact year9enquiries@theacademy.me

Mr O'Leary and the Year 9 Team

Year 10

10

The Year 10 students have successfully completed their first term of Extended Schools and have been participating in a variety of period 6 options. Students have been offered 59 options to choose, this leads them to choosing 4 in a week. They have just chosen their new options ready for when they return in January. Extended schools are a fantastic opportunity for students to gain further knowledge and experience in activities they may have not participated in. These options are offered to encourage participation in a variety of settings, to build resilience and aspiration as students prepare to progress into year 11. These activities can be added to job applications and references to show working independently or as a team, volunteering, leading/coaching sessions and understanding how to safely conduct sessions in a gym setting. Another intention is for students to explore new skills and concepts that they will take with them after life at AVA.

Art Competition

Well done to **Ini M** for winning 1st place in the KS4 Art Competition with her beautiful drawing of an Elephant.



Trips and Opportunities

Students in year 10 have been offered a wide range of cultural capital opportunities, students have visited Warick Castle, Cinema to watch: Home Alone, Cruella and In The Heights, experienced a boy band 'Here at Last' and spent the day at Operation Encounter overcoming fears of water and heights. Students who have attended these trips have thoroughly deserved the opportunity and hopefully from January more students will be interested and wanting to be involved.

The year 10 look forward to offering more opportunities out to all students when we return in January and as we enter term 2.

Any enquiries, please contact year10enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Pinker and the Year 10 Team

Year 11

11

As we break for the Christmas period, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the success term Year 11 have had. The last two years of uncertainty has taken its toll on the cohort but throughout the pandemic we have all tried to teach the students about resilience and reinforce the meaning behind the word whenever we can.

As Head of Year 11 my job is to take the students through their final year, making sure they build the skills to be successful in their future options. I have to get to know the students very quickly and gain their trust in a short period of time. By showing the students respect, getting to know and understanding them this is fundamental in making sure we all work together as a team.

In September we started of the year by taking some of the students on a team building day to Operation Encounter. The students spent the day working together in crate stacking, canoeing, fire and raft building. It makes me realise quite quickly that this cohort had a special bond with each other. In October we invited Positively MAD in to work with the students in getting prepared for their mocks. During the sessions students were taught ways in which to revise, getting them out of their comfort zone and thinking about versatile ways to digest the information they needed. At the end of October the students sat their pre-mocks, this was the first taste of exams for Year 11 since the pandemic. These exams were important for the students and staff as it set a precedent to us all about how we need to conduct ourselves during the exam season.

In November students returned and we wanted to focus on reflection of the pre-mocks and mental health. All Year 11 students were invited to an afternoon with the boy band Here At Last who spoke to the students about mental health. In school students know they can always talk to a member of staff if they are struggling with their mental health.

At the end of November, we started the Christmas mocks, which finished earlier this week. Once again, we have been impressed with the students and have they conducted themselves with these mocks.

When we return in January students will have a mock results day on Friday 14th January. They will be given their results during AM reg in the main hall then Study Higher will deliver a talk on future options, resilience and dealing with stress. In lessons teachers will be using the mock results to drive the lessons, making sure students are prepared for the March mocks.

From January we have ten school weeks left until Easter, after Easter the Year 11 exams begin. We would like the students to make the most of their final ten weeks before the exams.

As you are aware we would like to give the year 11s the send-off they deserve. We have the Prom planned for Friday 24th June at Missenden Abbey. In the new year we will send out details on how students can order their leavers hoodies as well.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Any enquiries, please contact year11enquiries@theacademy.me

Mrs Leach and the Year 11 Team

12&13

Year 12 & 13

Christmas Party

Last Friday our year 12 and 13 learners enjoyed Christmas lunch and games together, celebrating our differences and our mutual respect for all.



Young Enterprise

The Yr12 YE Team would like to thank everyone who supported them in their Young Enterprise Christmas Sweet Sale Fundraising Event that took place on Thursday 16th December. The team are very grateful to all those who purchased sweet treats and ice4-cream, as well as those who took part in the Raffle and bought tickets to be in with a chance of winning one of their FitKit exercise bags.



The Raffle Winner will be announced in the New Year.

Any enquiries, please contact post16enquiries@theacademy.me

Ms Sharma and the Year 12/13 Team

Thank you for all your support